## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8765

USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

**UNCLAS LUSAKA 2324** 

DEPT FOR AF, AF/E, AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV US UK RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA: NKOMO ON AAP AND MANGENA

1. PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE LATE TODAY (JUNE 29) FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH GRAHAM/LOW. THE MAJOR TOPICS COVERED WERE THE RHODESIAN SITUATION AND THE DEATH OF ZAPU COMMANDER ALFRED MANGENA. IN A PREPARED STATEMENT REFERRING TO HIS MEETING WITH GRAHAM/LOW, NKOMO SAID "AS FAR AS I COULD ASCERTAIN THERE WAS NOTHING POSITIVE. THEY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET ANYTHING FROM THE REGIME." NKOMO ADDED THAT "AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, TALKING WITH SOME OF THESE MEN OF STRAW IS GETTING OUT OF DATE." UNDER QUESTIONING NKOMO SAID THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD BEEN LEFT OUT IN THE COLD BY THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT "SO WE HAD TO PUT ON THE HEAT. THE CHAPS INSIDE ARE BEGINNING TO SWEAT. THE THING IS DISINTEGRATING. HOW THEN CAN WE BE ASKED (TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE INTERNAL LEADERS) AT THIS LATE HOUR?"

2. NKOMO REVEALED THAT THE DEATH OF MANGENA YESTERDAY "CAME

AS A RESULT OF AN ATTACK ON ONE OF OUR BASES SUNDAY NIGHT (JUNE 25) NEAR THE BORDER. WE WERE ATTACKED BY 12 MEN, 8 WERE KILLED, TWO ESCAPED. OUR MEN WERE LATER HARASSED BY HELICOPTERS WHICH STRAFFED THE AREA." NKOMO THEN PRODUCED 8 BELGIAN FN RIFILES, A BLOOD-STAINED MAP, A PARACHUTE, LANDMINES, HAND GRENADES, AND A SMALL BLACK DIARY WHICH HE SAID CONTAINED "VERY IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENTS."

COMMENT: NKOMO'S ADMISSION OF ANOTHER RHODESIAN ATTACK WAS THE FIRST PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OF THE INCURSION. THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR MADE NO MENTION OF THE RAID. THIS WAS ALSO THE FIRST TIME THAT NKOMO PRODUCED ALLEGEDLY CAPTURED RHODESIAN EQUIPMENT AT A LUSAKA PRESS CONFERENCE. LOW

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## Message Attributes

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